



# Queen Anne Cobblestone

The Newsletter of the Queen Anne Historical Society

May 2013

## Kinnear Park Conversation Highlights Annual Meeting on May 23, 2013

The Annual Meeting of the Queen Anne Historical Society will take place at 7:00 p.m. at the Church of Christ (former 7th Church of Christ Science) 2555 8th Avenue West on Thursday, May 23, 2013. Following a brief business meeting including elections to the board, we will have a lively discussion about Kinnear Park and its greenbelt neighbor.

Located on the very southwest corner of Queen Anne and one of the numerous neighborhood parks donated by Queen Anne residents (Kerry, Marshall, Parsons and Bhy Cracke among others), this oft-overlooked park provides sweeping views to the bay, champion trees, a tennis court

and a marvelous overview of community history. Debi Frausto and her friends at Folpark have led the drive to revive the park. Adjacent to it and extending north just east of Elliott Avenue West, a majestic greenbelt is being reclaimed by neighborhood volunteers led by Howard Langevelt. Howard and Debi join board members Holly Smith and Aaron Luoma as we learn about the past and the future of this important patch of refreshing green in our neighborhood. Holly has written extensively about the history of the park, and Aaron is a landscape architect. Light refreshments follow. The meeting is open to the public at no charge.



*Umbrella Shelter on Postcard : el 10 de mayo 1902: ¿Ha visto usted este parque? Yo no, pero decir que es de los más bonitos de esta ciudad. Have you seen this park? I haven't but I can assure you that it is one of the most beautiful of this city.*  
Image courtesy UW Special Collections.

## Del Loder Recipient of AKCHO'S "Willard Jue Memorial Award"

The Queen Anne Historical Society (QAHS) salutes board member Del Loder on his recognition by the Association of King County Historical Organizations (AKCHO) on April 23, 2013 with the Willard Jue Memorial Award for his outstanding contributions to King County history, his exceptional leadership, and the excellent quality or spirit of his service.

Del was first recruited by Dr. Kay F. Reinartz when in 1985 the society took on its big book project, *Queen Anne: Community on the Hill*. Del researched and edited the chapter on cemeteries. Since that time, he has been an integral member of the society's Board of Trustees. Del became so interested in the history of Mount Pleasant Cemetery that he started an annual walking tour with Kim Turner in 1992. And it wasn't all researching and lecturing! Del was the driver for the judges of the annual tree lighting contest.



*Del Loder, photo by John P. Hennes*

Driving up and around the icy streets of Queen Anne on a December night takes a special kind of courage!

Congratulations Del!

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### REVAMPED WEBSITE

**Have you checked out our new website?**  
We continue to make improvements to our website ([www.qahistory.org](http://www.qahistory.org)), including better organization of our historical database and images. You can also "like" us on Facebook and "follow" us on Twitter.



### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Volunteers are needed in several areas, please email: [help@qahistory.org](mailto:help@qahistory.org) to help QAHS and our community!

# Queen Anne Historical Society

## Queen Anne's Carnegie Library: Let There Be Light By Michael Herschensohn, PhD.

We previously explored the wonderful Queen Anne Branch of the Seattle Public Library as it entered its 100th year of service. In our first article, we focused on the building's architecture. Here, we explore the story of Andrew Carnegie, the donor, the influence of James Bertram, manager of Carnegie's library gifts and the architects W. Marbury Somervell and Harlan Thomas. This neighborhood jewel was constructed with \$32,677 from the Carnegie Foundation. The City of Seattle contribution of \$6,500 for the building site was supplanted by a gift of \$500 from Seattle Times publisher and Queen Anne resident Alden J. Blethen (1845-1915).

### The Donor

Not unlike Queen Anne philanthropists Bill Gates and Warren Buffett, Andrew Carnegie (Figure 1) vowed to give away most of his wealth during his lifetime. As Carnegie wrote, "The man who dies thus rich, dies disgraced." By the time of his 1919 death, he had succeeded. Born in Scotland in 1835, Carnegie immigrated with his parents at age 13 to the United States, settling in Allegheny, Pennsylvania. By 1890, a spate of successful investments including the Carnegie Steel Company made him one the richest people in the country. Although tainted by the Homestead Strike of 1888 when private Pinkerton cops and an anti-union governor caused the death of strikers and a few cops, Carnegie's place in the annals of American history is assured by his charity. Known for funding New York's Carnegie Hall and Pittsburgh's Carnegie Institute of Technology, now part of Carnegie-Mellon University, the philanthropist's most celebrated gifts were the 2,509 libraries throughout the world constructed with grants totaling \$56 million. The program resulted in 1,689 Carnegie public libraries in the United States. James Bertram, Carnegie's secretary and the manager of the Carnegie Library Program, made his last gift in 1919, the year Carnegie died ("Carnegie Free Public Library,"

Landmark Nomination, Larry Johnson, The Johnson Partnership, 2011). The philanthropist donated \$70,000 to build the Queen Anne branch. The entablature on the first library Carnegie ever funded, the 1890 building designed by Sir George Washington Browne in Edinburgh, Scotland, proclaims, "Let There Be Light (Figure 2)." Carnegie's idea that books and reading enlighten everyone finds its roots in the Progressive Movement that pulsed through American cities at the end of the 19th c. In our library the flood of light that bathes its reading rooms reflect Carnegie's philosophy.

### The Manager

Andrew Carnegie distanced himself from the day-to-day management of his money. Consequently, James Bertram administered funding of the library program. After 1908, Bertram required cities to submit architectural drawings for approval, and after 1911, grant recipients and their architects had to consider suggestions in Bertram's book, *Notes on Library Buildings*. The book recommended against elaborate entrances and excessive space for library staff use. It suggested a basement 9'-10' high and four feet below natural grade and a second level 12'-15' high. The high ceilings resulted in spacious interior rooms with splendid natural lighting and ventilation. The Queen Anne branch matches Bertram's most favored plans with an adult reading area on one side, a matching children's area on the other and the librarian's desk in between facing the front door.

### The Architects

Harlan Thomas (1870-1953) was born in Iowa, but raised in Fort Collins, Colorado. After training in Denver and extensive European travels, he moved to Seattle in 1906. Among the projects by Thomas that are still standing in Queen Anne are the Chelsea Family Hotel (now the Chelsea Apartments on Olympic Drive), Figure 3, and the 7th Church of Christ Scientist



Figure 1: Andrew Carnegie, National Portrait Gallery



Figure 2: Entablature over the door of the Edinburgh, Scotland Carnegie Library

(now the Church of Christ) at 2555 8th Avenue W. Both of these buildings are City of Seattle Landmarks. Other extant Thomas projects include the Sorrento Hotel, the Seattle Chamber of Commerce Building, the first Harborview Hospital building, Bagley Hall at the UW, Laurelhurst Church and the Sand Point Community United Methodist Church. The Harlan House at 1401 8th Avenue W., built in 1909 just below the Willcox Wall, reflects the European influence for which the architect is particularly known. Thomas was a Professor of Architecture and Director of the School of Architecture at the University of Washington

*The mission of the Queen Anne Historical Society is to record and preserve, in permanent form, the history of the settling of the Queen Anne community in Seattle, WA and to develop within the community an appreciation and concern for its history and its historical sites.*

## President's Letter

The society was proud to see its nominee Del Loder walk away with the Williard Jue Memorial Award at the Association of King County Historical Organizations' annual ceremony. We all thought it quite nifty that Del and Williard Jue had worked together in the Boy Scouts.

We also took pleasure when the Landmarks Preservation Board designated the Puget Sound Power and Light Company Utilities Building at 800 Aloha Street a city landmark. The long and narrow tripartite one-story building designed by John Graham, Sr. is definitely utilitarian. It is, however, the largest and most visible of the three surviving witnesses to the long battle between Puget Power and City Light that the public utility won thanks to a 1951 referendum. I think of it as a pivot point between John, Sr.'s terrific Ford Motor Company Assembly plant (corner Fairview and Valley) and his son's spectacular Space Needle, both of which can be seen from 800 Aloha. It is just west of Buca di Beppo's and north of the changes happening on Mercer St. Check it out.

Leanne Olson, chair of our preservation committee, and I are also thrilled by the work done by Historylink (Alan Stein and Paula Becker) in collaboration with Artifacts (Michael Sullivan) on the historic building survey and landmark recommendations they recently completed for the undesignated historic buildings at Seattle Center. The consultants cleverly divided the buildings into two easy to understand clusters: the Paul Hayden Kirk Cluster (Intiman, Phelps) along Mercer Street and the Paul Thiry Cluster (NASA, Key Arena, Northwest Court) the block from Thomas to Republican between 1st and 2nd Ave. N. For political reasons, Seattle Center is not nominating the Key Area for landmark status just now. We are pleased, however, that the nomination for all the Northwest Court was submitted to the

city on May 1.

Our archive team has also been active acquiring new collections management software and a giant flat filing cabinet. With help from UW intern Katherine Hall, Verna Ness, our archivist, is unrolling, flattening and re-storing our rather large map collection. Katie Hall is a student in the UW's museology.

Do try to take the walking tour Nikki Demers-Changelo is offering at 10 am on the first Sunday of June, July, August and September. Nikki brings fantastic new information to her tour. She has combined the history of real estate development and building types picking stunning examples for each of the ten decades of the last century. The tours start at Kerry Park. Proceeds benefit Queen Anne charities.

I am delighted the society's board chose the churches of Queen Anne as the theme for next year's public meetings, articles and hopefully a tour or two. We'll look at mid-century modern (St Anne's), Gothic Revival (Bethany Presbyterian), seismic retrofit (also Bethany Presbyterian) o.k. it is not a style, but an important preservation problem for our churches), A-frame style (St. Paul's Episcopal) and many others.

Plans for the coming season remind me that I will be sending a reminder letter later this month to members who haven't rejoined for this year. If you happen to fall in that group, I would be delighted if you were to rejoin at [www.qahistory.org](http://www.qahistory.org) quickly. It will save me big time and effort.

Enjoy the sunshine!

*Michael Herschensohn*

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## Kim's Musings Little Howe and Big Howe: Fields of Thought By Kim Turner

Queen Anne has the luck of maintaining two parks tied together by a similar name and locations abutting the same street – Howe Street. Little Howe, also known as East Queen Anne Playground, was established in 1910 when the city of Seattle purchased the land from John and Ida Watrons. This one and two-fifths acre park was identified by the community as "Little Howe" from the beginning, the city not having placed a name marker on the property. Due to the topography, which is higher on the west half than the east, the property was graded into two levels. The western half contained two tennis courts, a basketball (playing) court and entry paths; the lower (eastern) portion contained a comfort station and tool shed, a round wading pool flanked with sets of swings, rings and slides. Both areas were nicely landscaped along the paths and the perimeter of the park.

In the late 1920's there was considerable pressure from the community to allow greater ball playing area (primarily for baseball). Then, too, the unsatisfactory

clay surfaces of the tennis courts caused the parks system to rethink the usage areas. A small "scrub" ballfield was graded at the southwest corner for children. In 1928 Big Howe was opened as a baseball field for the "high schoolers" and that new park would remain the "home" grounds for the baseball teams from Queen Anne High School through the rest of that school's existence. It was there that Queen Anne played some of its finest games, taking the city title in 1934, 1949 and 1969, although the actual title games were played at Sick's Seattle Stadium until 1965, thereafter being held at Graves Field at the University of Washington.

Big Howe is a six-acre park immediately south of McClure Middle School, at 150 West Blaine Street, or, 1901 First Avenue West. Across from it on the east side is the Queen Anne Community Center (formerly the fieldhouse) with its adjacent community swimming pool. The playing field at Big Howe consists of two fields with dirt infields, or one all-grass field. Baseball, softball and soccer are all

played here. There is a children's play area outside of the playing fields, which includes swings, slides, a merry-go-round (carousel) and a "Jungle Gym." There are bleachers at the playing field, so a good crowd can often be found there.

Little Howe was redone in the early 1950's. The old comfort station was no longer such, considered "a hazard to public health and safety" and it was torn down. The new comfort station was placed on the western (upper) level. By the 1970's, the Forward Thrust Project gave money to replace much of what was there; the new comfort station was remodeled and the children's wading pool was moved to the upper section in front of the station. The address of the park is given as 1912 Warren Avenue North. The two parks remain a vital part of the Queen Anne community. This is the last in our series on Queen Anne's Parks. If we have left out your favorite park, it may be due to other venues which are bringing the remaining park areas up-to-date.